

Our True Next Of Kin (Mark 3:31-35)

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Our True Next of Kin (Mark 3:31-35)

When I read this text I immediately remembered a children's story that my wife often reads to the boys.

"Are you my mommy?" is the name of the book. The story goes that while the mother bird is gone the baby bird is hatched and is looking around asking everyone "Are you my mommy?" He asks a dog, a cat, a car, a steam shovel. All of these tell him "No!" Finally in the end the mother finds the bird and when he asks "Are you my mommy?" She says

yes. All through the story the baby bird is asking things that obviously are not his mommy. You can tell by looking there is no family resemblance. But when it comes to the family of God eternally can not be traced by outward external resemblance. Christians come in all shapes sizes and degrees of ugly. So the question is how can we tell the next of kin to the Lord Jesus.

I believe if we examine the text ^{our relationship to him} we can determine

It is determined by our Belief not our Birth

The main thrust to this portion of scripture is that in the Kingdom of God - fleshly Kinship has no bearing on eternal rel-

relationship. So many times. My daddy is a preacher!

A. Siblings Testified of their Unbelief ^{vs 31}

His mother and brethren were attempting to pull him away from doing the will of God. Remember Luke 2:49. His brethren were not on the same page w/ Jesus. Unlike the disciples close at hand, Jesus' brethren did not believe upon Him. John 7:5 They were of the mind of vs 21. He's out of His mind. Am 3:3. Also his mother was not yet a follower of the Lord Jesus. Later we find her at the cross, with disciples, but now she is in a position of unbelief.

B. Simeon Testified of his Brethren

Upon hearing of his family outside Jesus begins to testify of his true relations. These here are my relations, mother, brother + sisters. Other passage of Scripture. We by virtue of the new birth become the brethren of Christ Sons and Daughters of God. Chn Jn 8 Jesus was talking to the Pharisees concerning Abraham. Jesus made it clear that being a blood descendant of Abraham did not afford them a position in the family of God.

II. It is determined by our Focus not our Family

Have you ever heard a person remark concerning a baby that he or she looks like daddy or mamma? Fro

- 1) Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?
- 2) John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.
- 3) Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?
- 4) Matthew 25:40, one of the Lord's parables, 'And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me'. Matthew 28:10, 'Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid', after He had risen again, 'go tell my brothers that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me'. John 20:17, 'Jesus saith unto Mary', after His resurrection, 'Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God'. Romans 8:29, 'For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren'. Hebrews 2:11-12, 'For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee'.

This and other related texts ^{a family resemblance} we should see

A. They were Close to Him - vs 32 + 34

the wording indicates that they were sitting in the house nearby the Lord Jesus. Encircling. The family had just arrived and were on the outside.

Jesus true relations were close to him. They were within ear shot of what he had to say. They were within hand reach if Jesus wanted them to do anything. The mark of a child of God is that they are close to Him. Are you close to Jesus? Can you hear him when he speaks?

B. They were Concerned with Him - They

were concerned with what he had to say. Not 'hey I got something to say to you. You need to come or out here to hear what I've got to say. No the True Relations were interested in what he was saying, in what he was doing, in where he was going. Do you have the birth mark of the concern with what God has to say? Are you trying to dictate to God what you want or are you at his feet concerned ^{w/ Him} preoccupied?

III. It is determined by our obedience not our Origin

Lastly we have a very telling birth mark for those that are related to the Lord Jesus in The Kingdom of

God and that is obedience

A. True Relations Perceive ^① P.P. Luke 8:18

Not only are the true Relations concerned with what Jesus has to say but what he says is perceived, understood with an intent to follow. Some hear their concerns but when it is heard it is receive w/o an intent to follow ^② Jn 6:66

True relations perceive with a readiness to apply what is said to their lives. Paul gives a great example of this in ^③ 1 Cor 1:18 The true relations perceive the word of God. This is the seal of presence of ^④ B.

B. True Relations Perform - The responding posture of kinship to Christ the performance of what is commanded. It is very fitting that James the very brother of Jesus said ^⑤ Jas 1:22-24, 1 Jo 2:17, 3:22. If we say that we are the next of kin to the Lord Jesus, then there should be the birth mark of an obedience to hear what we are commanded and do what we are commanded.

IV Closing - Recently I heard of an off the shelf home eternally test. If there is uncertainty of who the father of one is just a little mouth swab, mail it in and they can determine the relationship. Do or Don't

- 1) Luke 8:21 And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.
- 2) John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.
- 3) 1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
- 4) John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
- 5) James 1:22-24 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
- 6) 1 John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.
- 7) 1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.